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*Attorneys for Plaintiffs The Wizard Trades, LLC and Michael Hubbs*

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH, CENTRAL DIVISION**

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THE WIZARD TRADES, LLC, a Utah  
Limited Liability Company, and MICHAEL  
HUBBS, an individual,

Plaintiff,  
vs.

CHARLTON LACHASE, an individual,  
ANDRA RUSH, an individual, STEVEN  
DUHON, an individual, and BRIAN  
HERTNEKY, and individual,

Defendants.

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND  
JURY DEMAND**

Case No. 2:23-cv-00207-DAO

Judge Daphne A. Oberg

Plaintiffs The Wizard Trades, LLC, and Michael Hubbs, complain against Defendants  
Charlton Lachase, Andra Rush, Steven Duhon and Brian Hertneky, as follows:

**PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff The Wizard Trades, LLC (“TWT”), is a Utah limited liability company having a business address in Salt Lake County, Utah.
2. Plaintiff Michael Hubbs (“Hubbs”), is an individual residing in Salt Lake County, Utah.

3. On information and belief, Defendant Charlton Lachase (“Lachase”), is an individual residing in Fort Pierce, Florida.
4. On information and belief, Andra Rush is a resident of Pinellas, Florida.
5. On information and belief, Defendant Steven Duhon is a resident of Plano, Texas.
6. On information and belief, Brian Hertneky is a resident of Aurora, Ohio.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1121 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332 and 1338, as the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 and the Complaint includes a claim for Copyright infringement.
8. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1337 because they are related to the claim of this action within the Court’s original jurisdiction.

9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants, as the acts alleged herein occurred in this District and Defendants have directed their comments into this state.

10. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331(b) because a substantial portion of the events giving rise to the claims stated herein have occurred in this District.

#### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

11. TWT is in the business of selling instructional materials which teach people how to do online training of stocks and cryptocurrency.

12. Since 2021, TWT has been providing video courses in American Sign Language that teaches people how to watch for various patterns in the stock market and how to engage in

on-line trading and the like to make money trading stocks.

13. As part of TWT's course, TWT directs its students to resources which allow its students to practice trading using pretend investments so that they can learn to apply the principles taught in TWT's course.

14. TWT provides the course online so that students can repeat the course as often as needed to master the skills of identifying various market trends which can be used to make money.

15. TWT offers coaching and makes it clear that practice is necessary prior to using actual funds to apply the principles in the market.

16. In early 2023, Defendant Lachase contacted TWT in Utah about taking TWT's on-line trading course. Defendant Lachase assisted TWT at a seminar that TWT was holding and was offered the discounted rate of \$6,000 for each of Lachase and his wife to obtain access to the TWT course.

17. As part of the program, Lachase was provided a copy of TWT's terms and conditions for taking the course.

18. As part of the terms and conditions, Lachase was warned that there were no refunds.

19. Additionally, Lachase was advised that the content was provided as is and without any warranty.

20. Lachase was further advised that use of the website was at his own risk.

21. Lachase was further advised that TWT reserved the right to terminate access to the materials in the event a user violated TWT's terms of service.

22. Despite knowing the conditions, Lachase paid TWT \$12,000 to purchase access to the course for Lachase and his wife.

23. TWT offered to assist Lachase and to provide coaching while Lachase practiced the trading techniques taught by TWT using practice accounts.

24. Lachase declined TWT's offers and elected not to practice the techniques. Rather, Lachase began to promptly trade with an actual account with his investment being at risk.

25. Due to his lack of understanding of the trading strategies taught in TWT's course and failing to spend adequate time to understand the movement trends among the stock he wished to invest in, Lachase had substantial losses.

26. Rather than accepting blame for his failure to practice and learn the techniques taught by TWT prior to risking his money, Lachase took to social media to claim that TWT was a scam.

27. Lachase demanded a full refund despite having been told in advance that there are no refunds.

28. Lachase has made numerous claims accusing TWT and its owner Michael Hubbs of being fraudulent and selling a scam.

29. Lachase further stated that: "I'm ready to go into SYL (fb group with tons of people) to share....to warn everyone that Michael Hubbs' course for \$6,500...he's very manipulative...You're right that Michael Hubbs is a SCAM. He's a very bad person. I will get in SYL to try and destroy Michael Hubbs."

30. Lachase further stated: "I will share everything of his course materials from

lesson 1 to lesson 21 FREE FOR EVERYONE, EVERYTHING FREE hahahaha. I haven't signed any contract, means I can do anything... hahaha. Freedom of speech."

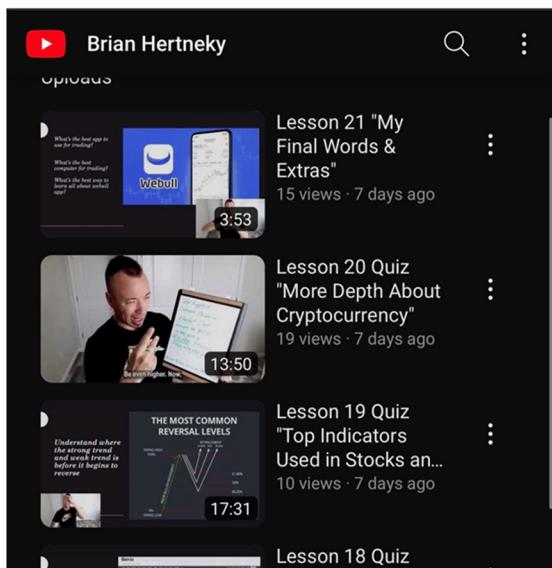
31. In light of Lachase's threat to make TWT's proprietary content available to the public, TWT terminated Lachase's access to TWT's course materials.

32. Lachase was further advised that he did not have authorization to use the videos marketed by TWT and the videos were marked identifying that they were subject to copyright protection.

33. Despite being told that he does not have authorization to distribute TWT's copyrighted materials, Lachase has continued to publicly disclose the materials and to encourage others to do the same.

34. On information and belief, Lachase provided copies of the videos marketed by TWT to the remaining defendants to copy and distribute to the public.

35. Defendant Brian Hertneky posted all of TWT's content on youtube.com and up to 19 people have viewed the course.



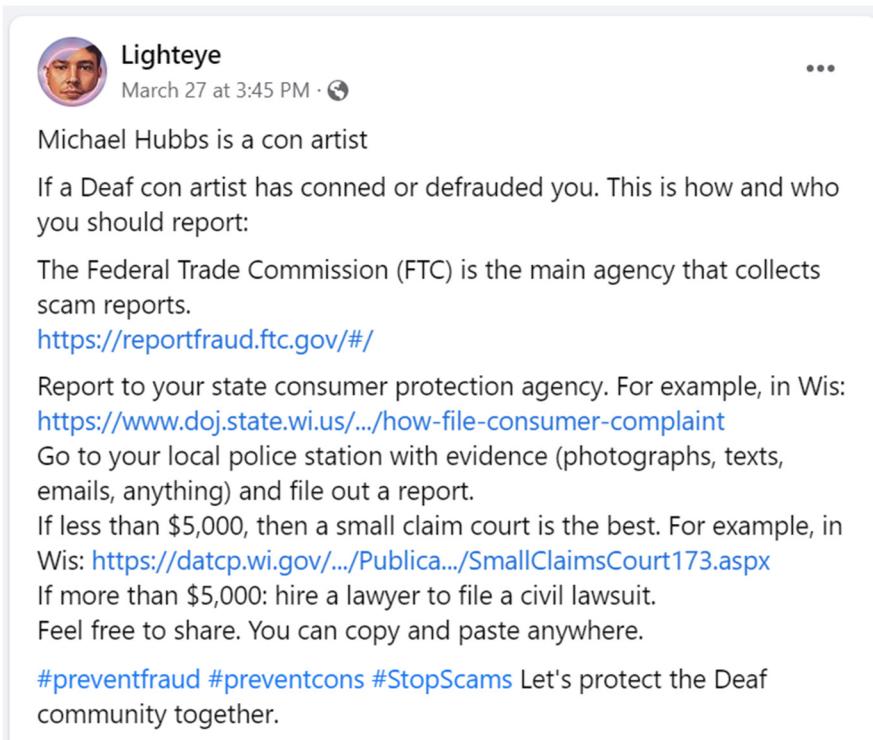
36. On information and belief, Lachase and the other defendants have distributed sufficient copies of TWT's course to cause damages exceeding \$200,000.

37. Additionally, Lachase and the other defendants have set out to damage the reputation of Hubbs and TWT by claiming that Hubbs and TWT are engaging in fraud and that they are scamming people.

38. Each of the defendants has posted false and defamatory statements about Plaintiffs in an effort to discourage people from dealing with Plaintiffs.

39. On information and belief, Defendants have conspired together in an attempt to damage Plaintiffs' reputations and damage Michael Hubbs.

40. For example, Defendant Brian Hertneky has repeatedly called Hubbs a con artist and encouraged people to report Hubbs to government authorities.



Lighteye  
March 27 at 3:45 PM · 

Michael Hubbs is a con artist

If a Deaf con artist has conned or defrauded you. This is how and who you should report:

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is the main agency that collects scam reports.

<https://reportfraud.ftc.gov/#/>

Report to your state consumer protection agency. For example, in Wis:

<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/.../how-file-consumer-complaint>

Go to your local police station with evidence (photographs, texts, emails, anything) and file out a report.

If less than \$5,000, then a small claim court is the best. For example, in Wis: <https://datcp.wi.gov/.../Publica.../SmallClaimsCourt173.aspx>

If more than \$5,000: hire a lawyer to file a civil lawsuit.

Feel free to share. You can copy and paste anywhere.

#preventfraud #preventcons #StopScams Let's protect the Deaf community together.

41. On information and belief, the remaining defendants have repeated similar statements made by Lachase.

42. Defendant Hertneky runs a Facebook page called Lighteye wherein Hertneky provides commentary on stocks and cryptocurrency.

43. Hertneky is thus a competitor of TWT.

44. Hertneky states on his FACEBOOK page that “Michael Hubbs is a con artist” and posts contend derogatory of Hubbs.

45. On information and belief, Hertneky has attacked Hubbs in order to increase viewership and attract people to his FACEBOOK group Deaf Stocks & Cryptos.

46. The false statements made by Defendants were made maliciously and with complete disregard for the rights of TWT and Hubbs.

## **COUNT I**

### **(COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT – 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq.)**

#### **(All Defendants)**

47. Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1-46 and further allege:

48. Hubbs is the owner of U.S. Copyright Reg. No. TX 9-240-449 (“the ‘449 Registration”). A copy of the registration is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

49. Hubbs has notified the public that his materials are protected by copyright.

50. Despite being aware of Hubbs’ copyright claims, Defendants have made unauthorized copies of Hubb’s copyrighted material and distributed those copies on the internet.

51. The intent of Defendants when infringing Hubb’s copyrights was to financially harm Hubbs in Utah and to destroy Hubbs financially.

52. The actions of Defendants cannot be deemed a fair use as Defendants copied all of the content Hubbs was selling through TWT and made it free to the public.

53. On information and belief, at least 19 people have viewed Hubbs' copyrighted content on the internet free of charge, thereby costing Hubbs and TWT in excess of 200,000.00.

**COUNT II**

**(LIBEL AND SLANDER)**

**(All Defendants)**

54. Plaintiffs incorporate the allegations of paragraphs 1-43 and further allege:

55. Defendants have made statements of fact against TWT and Hubbs, including, but not limited to, that TWT is a scam and that Hubbs is a scammer and engaged in fraud.

56. Defendants have also accused Hubbs of being a con artist.

57. Defendants' statements were published on social media, including FACEBOOK.

58. The statements made by Defendants were false.

59. The statements made by Defendants were made to damage the reputation of TWT and Hubbs, and specifically targeted to destroy Hubbs's reputation.

60. The statements about Hubbs and TWT are targeted to cause damage to Plaintiffs in Utah.

61. The statements about TWT and Hubbs have caused TWT to lose sales and have damaged the reputation of Hubbs.

62. The statements were not privileged.

63. The Defendants other than Lachance have repeated the false and defamatory statements made by Lachance in an effort to help Lachance destroy the reputation of Hubbs.

64. On information and belief, the actions of the Defendants have cost Hubbs in excess of \$200,000.

65. Defendants' actions have been malicious and TWT and Hubbs are entitled to punitive damages, therefore.

66. Moreover, Plaintiffs' lack an adequate remedy at law and the damage to their reputations will be irreparably harmed unless Defendants are enjoined against further libel and slander against Plaintiffs.

67. Wherefore, TWT and Hubbs assert a claim for libel and slander.

### **COUNT III**

#### **TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

##### **(BY TWT AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)**

68. Plaintiff TWT incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1-67 and further allege:

69. Plaintiff TWT sells a training course in on-line trading called The Wizard Trades.

70. TWT makes its income by selling subscriptions to its training materials.

71. TWT's subscription service is particularly focused on the deaf community as the teaching materials are presented in American Sign Language.

72. TWT has prospective economic relationships with those in the deaf community who are looking to learn more about on-line trading.

73. Defendants were aware of TWT's on-line training and made false and disparaging comments about the training and TWT and Hubbs in an effort to cause people not to purchase TWT's product and to destroy the reputation of Hubbs.

74. Defendants interfered with the prospective economic relationship between TWT

and its potential customers for the sole purpose of harming TWT and Hubbs.

75. Defendants used improper means to interfere with TWT's potential economic relations, including false claims that TWT was promoting a scam or a fraud and that the owner of TWT was a con artist.

**(COUNT IV)**

**(FALSE ADVERTISING – 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a))**

**(TWT AGAINST DEFENDANT HERTNEKY)**

76. Plaintiffs incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1-75 and further alleges:

77. TWT and Defendant Hertneky are competitors in that both provide information about trading stocks and cryptocurrency on-line.

78. In an effort to mislead the public and increase traffic to Hertneky's on-line pages, Hertneky has made false and misleading statements about TWT's course materials, including that the course is a scam and that the owner of TWT is a con artist.

79. Hertneky's comments are a false or misleading statement of fact and have been shared hundreds of times.

80. Hertneky's comments were made in a commercial advertisement or promotion.

81. Hertneky's comments have deceived or are likely to deceive consumers in a material way.

82. Hertneky's comments were made in interstate commerce.

83. Hertneky's comments have caused and are likely to cause competitive or commercial injury to TWT.

84. All of the actions alleged herein were specifically targeted at Hubbs and TWT in Utah and have sought to damage Hubbs and TWT in Utah.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

In view of the foregoing, H&H asks this Court to grant relief as follows:

1 For Judgment that Defendants engaged in Copyright infringement and for an award of all damages and profits recoverable thereunder in an amount to be proven at trial.

2. For injunctive relief to prevent Defendants from committing further acts of copyright infringement.

3. For Judgment that Defendants engaged liable and slander and for an award of all remedies available therefor, including, but not limited to:

a. An award of TWT and Hubbs' damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

b. An award of punitive damages for Defendants' malicious conduct.

c. An award of TWT and Hubbs' costs.

d. An award of injunctive relief barring Defendants from further acts of libel and slander.

e. An order requiring Defendants to remove all defamatory statements about TWT and/or Hubbs.

4. For judgment that Defendants have engaged in tortious interference with economic relations and for an award of all remedies available therefore, including, but not limited to:

a. An award of TWT and Hubbs' damages in an amount to be determined at

trial.

- b. An award of TWT and Hubbs' costs.
- c. An award of injunctive relief barring Defendants from further acts of tortious interference.
- d. An order requiring Defendants to remove all false statements about TWT and/or Hubbs.

5. For judgment that Defendant Hertneky engaged in False Advertising and for an award of all remedies available therefore, including, but not limited to:

- a. An award of Defendants' profits;
- b. An award of TWT's damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
- c. An award for TWT's costs; and
- d. An award of injunctive relief.

6. For such other award as the Court considers just.

**JURY DEMAND**

TWT and Hubbs seek a trial by jury of all issues so triable.

BATEMAN IP

/s/ Randall B. Bateman  
Randall B. Bateman

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs The Wizard Trades, LLC  
and Michael Hubbs*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing **FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND** was served on Defendants via First Class mail on April 13, 2023 as follows:

Steven Duhon  
(at the address of service identified in the executed Summons)

Brian Hertneky  
(at the address of service identified in the executed Summons)

/s/Randall B. Bateman